

FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICE PRINCIPLES*

1. There must be no personal data record-keeping systems whose very existence is secret.
2. There must be a way for individuals to find out what information about them is in a record and how it is used.
3. There must be a way for individuals to prevent information about them that was obtained for one purpose from being used or made available for other purposes without their consent.
4. There must be a way for individuals to correct or amend a record of identifiable information about them.
5. Any organization creating, maintaining, using or disseminating records of identifiable personal data must assure the reliability of the data for their intended use and must take precautions to prevent misuse of the data.

*Taken from: Records, Computers and the Rights of Citizens; A Report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Automated Personal Data Systems, U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare, July 1973.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS A GROWING CONCERN THAT AUTOMATED PERSONAL DATA SYSTEMS PRESENT A SERIOUS POTENTIAL FOR HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING INFRINGEMENT OF BASIC LIBERTIES. THIS HAS LED TO THE BELIEF THAT SPECIAL SAFEGUARDS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO PROTECT AGAINST POTENTIALLY HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR PRIVACY AND DUE PROCESS. (Emphasis added.)

-- From Elliot Richardson's 1972 charge to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Automated Personal Data Systems.